



A critical review of competitiveness measurement in Northern Ireland

Birnie, E., Johnston, R., Heery, L., & Ramsey, E. (2019). A critical review of competitiveness measurement in Northern Ireland. *Regional Studies*, 53(10), 1494-1504. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2019.1569757>

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Published in:
Regional Studies

Publication Status:
Published (in print/issue): 03/10/2019

DOI:
[10.1080/00343404.2019.1569757](https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2019.1569757)

Document Version
Author Accepted version

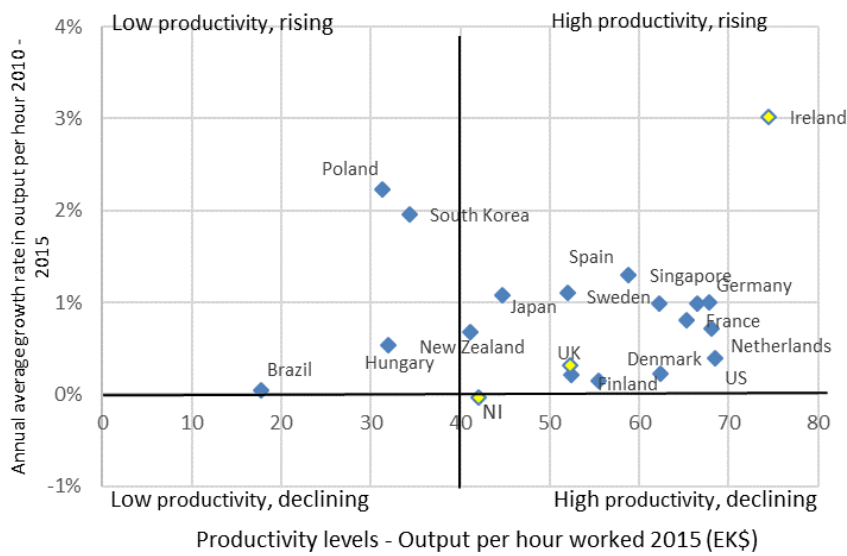
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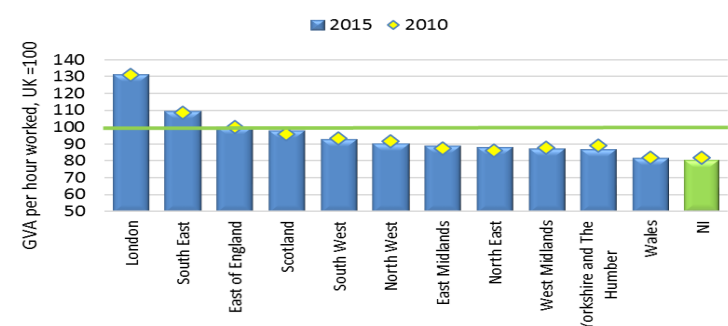
Figure 1: Northern Ireland total economy productivity levels and growth rates (GVA per hour worked) international comparisons, 2010-15



Note: Northern Ireland's output per hour worked has been calculated by applying Office for National Statistics's (ONS's) Northern Ireland/UK relative figures to UK productivity figures from the Conference Board Total Economy Database. (ONS (2017a). Values are quoted in US\$'000s using EKS purchasing power parities. EKS (Éltető-Köves-Szulc) is a method for calculating a multilateral per capita quantity index from disaggregated price and quantity data.

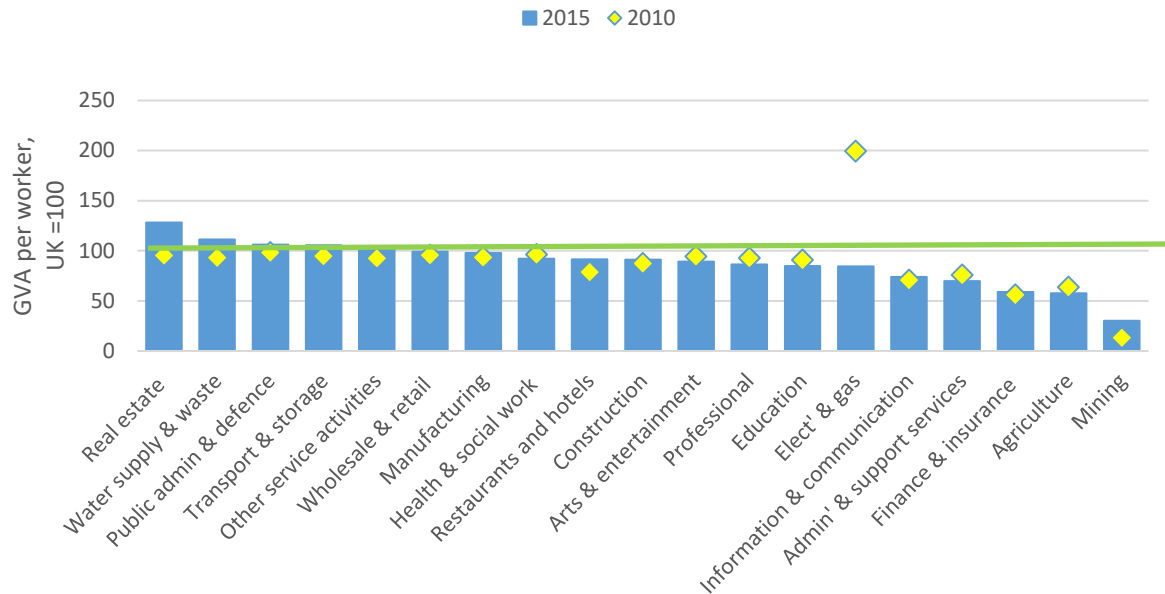
Source: Conference Board Total Economy Database and ONS.

Figure 2: Northern Ireland GVA per hour worked relative to the UK, 2010 and 2015



Source: ONS.

Figure 3: Northern Ireland sectoral productivity GVA per employee relative to the UK, 2010-15



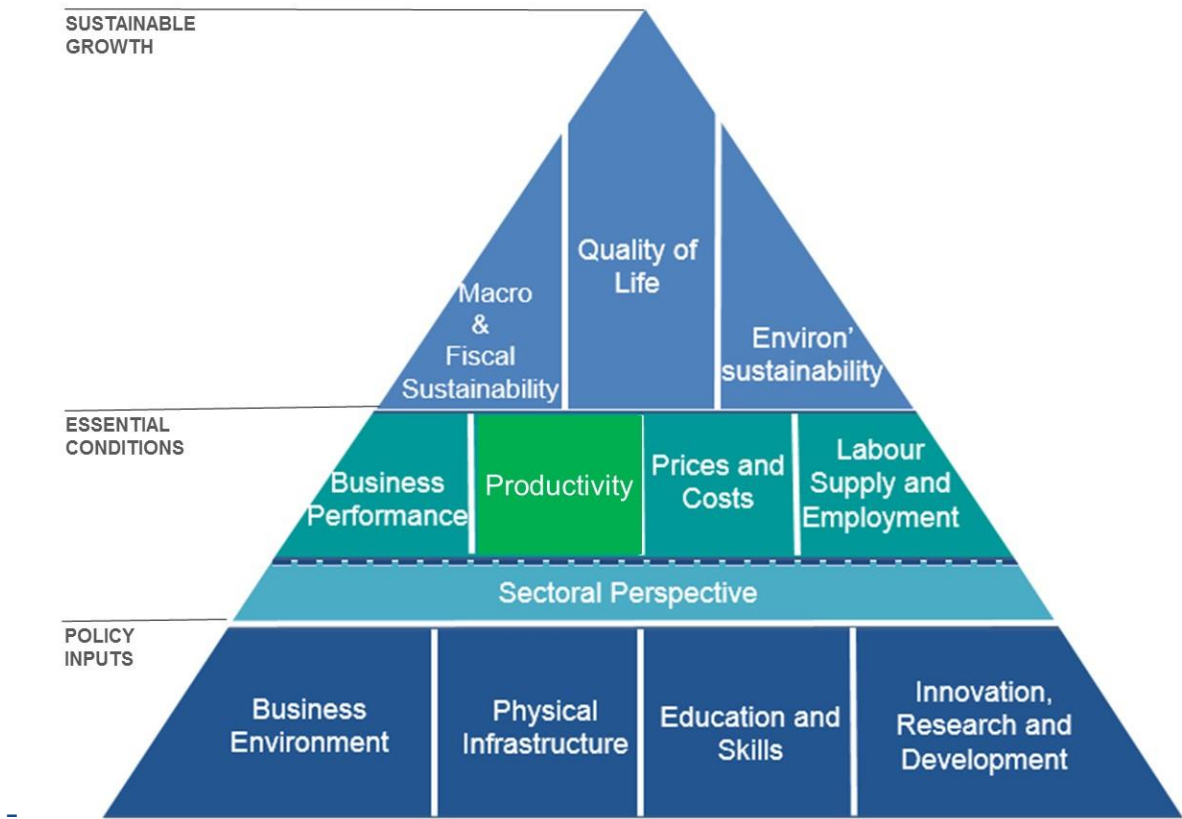
Source: National Online Manpower Information Service (NOMIS) and ONS

Table 1: WEF-based Competitiveness Index for Northern Ireland results by pillar, 2012-13

Pillar	Score	Rank (1-145)
Pillar 1: Institutions	4.57	42 nd
Pillar 2: Infrastructure	5.04	34 th
Pillar 3: Macroeconomic environment	3.86	118 th
Pillar 4: Health & primary education	6.35	18 th
Pillar 5: Higher education & training	5.10	28 th
Pillar 6: Goods market efficiency	4.77	29 th
Pillar 7: Labour market efficiency	4.57	45 th
Pillar 8: Financial market development	4.21	60 th
Pillar 9: Technological readiness	5.38	25 th
Pillar 10: Market size	2.85	104 th
Pillar 11: Business sophistication	4.31	41 st
Pillar 12: Innovation	3.90	31 st
<i>Competitiveness Index Score</i>	<i>4.46</i>	<i>42nd</i>

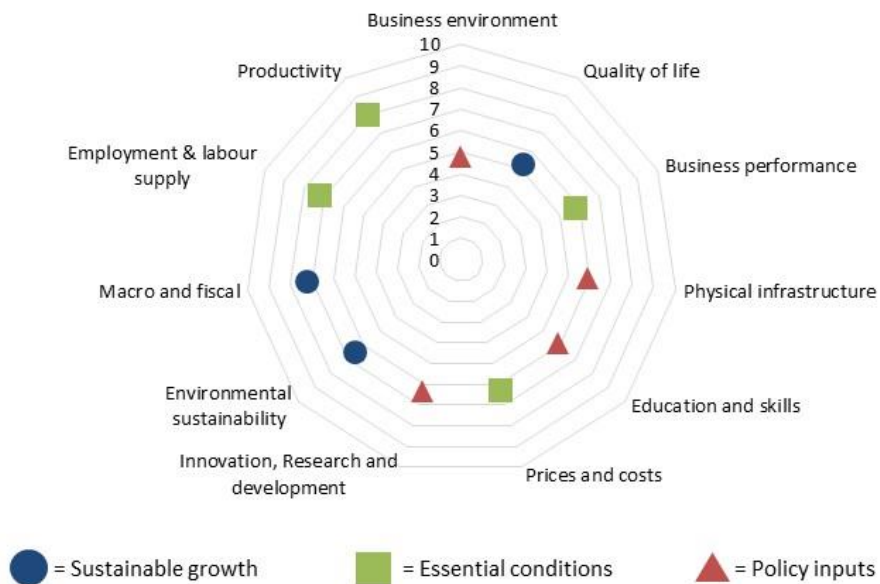
Source: SQW/Cambridge Econometrics (2013).

Figure 4: Conceptualisation of regional competitiveness in the Competitiveness Scorecard



Source: Johnston & Heery (2016).

Figure 5: Relative competitive performance of the pillars of the Competitiveness Scorecard, 2015



Notes: For each pillar the average score, and hence decile position, of all the indicators within that pillar was taken.

Source: Johnston & Heery (2016).

Figure 7: Changes in the relative competitive performance in the pillars of the Competitiveness Scorecard during 2010-15

Pillar	5 years previous	Current	Change in decile
Business performance	7.2	5.8	1.4
Physical infrastructure	6.3	5.9	0.4
Macro and fiscal	7.6	7.2	0.4
Prices and costs	6.6	6.3	0.3
Environmental sustainability	6.5	6.5	0.0
Quality of life	5.3	5.3	0.0
Business environment	4.8	4.8	0.0
Innovation, research and development	6.4	6.4	0.0
Productivity	8.0	8.0	0.0
Education and skills	5.4	5.9	-0.5
Employment & labour supply	6.8	7.3	-0.5
Overall average	6.2	6.1	0.1

Notes: Decile rankings from 1 to 10, with 1 marking the decile of comparators with the highest competitive position and 10 the decile with the lowest position. A positive figure in the Change in decile column indicates an improvement in Northern Ireland's relative competitiveness.

Source: Johnson & Heery (2016).